



Commonwealth of Virginia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RICHMOND

RECEIVED

APR 10 2007

DEQ-OD

April 2, 2007

Mr. David K. Paylor, Director  
Department of Environmental Quality  
629 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Paylor:

As you are aware, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources reported, and the General Assembly passed, SB 1403 (Puckett) and HB 3113 (Landes). These identical bills consolidate the State Air Pollution Control Board, the State Water Control Board, and the Waste Management Board into one citizen board with the power to promulgate regulations while vesting all other authority in the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, DEQ.

We believe the legislation has merit, but involves significant policy implications. For this reason, the Committees amended the bills to include a re-enactment clause requiring further consideration by the General Assembly in the 2008 Session. The re-enactment clause allows us additional time to hear from the public on the legislation and to review the issues prompting its introduction. While increased efficiency in the permitting process and a cross-media perspective in the regulatory process would undoubtedly bring benefits, public participation must remain a key element in any future legislation. As such, we request that DEQ facilitate a series of meetings among the various stakeholders and interested parties during the interim to discuss issues raised by the legislation and to identify ways the legislation might be improved. In addition to periodic updates on your progress, we ask that you provide us with a report to include draft legislation reflecting consensus among the stakeholders and a review of the issues where differences have continued to exist.

We certainly appreciate your consideration in this matter and look forward to hearing from you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

Delegate Kirkland M. Cox, Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture,  
Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Senator Charles R. Hawkins, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Conservation and Natural Resources